

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 8, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,030, 326 to Azuma et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,382,213 to Kopel et al. or, alternatively, rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Azuma et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,382,213 to Kopel et al.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 1 and non-elected claims 2-6 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claim 1 are moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicants have also added new claims 7-20. No new matter has been added by this reply. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-20 are in condition for allowance for at least the reason that neither of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest every claim element.

For example, independent claim 7 and independent claim 12 recite a tool replacement method including, among other things, positioning a spindle relative to a nut loosening station and positioning a receiving hole of a tool holding jig substantially in alignment with a tool associated with the spindle. Neither of the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, at least positioning a spindle relative to a nut loosening station or positioning a receiving hole of a tool holding jig substantially in alignment with a tool associated with the spindle. Because the cited references do not disclose or suggest every claim element, independent claims 7 and 12 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, dependent claims 8-11 and 13-20 are

also in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependence from independent claims 7 and 12, respectively.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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